



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/684,010	10/06/2000	William W. Smith III	PSTM0002/MRK	9819
29524	7590	04/13/2004	EXAMINER	
KHORSANDI PATENT LAW GROUP, A.L.C. 140 S. LAKE., SUITE 312 PASADENA, CA 91101-4710			COSIMANO, EDWARD R	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		3629		

DATE MAILED: 04/13/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Interview Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/684,010	SMITH ET AL.	
	Examiner Edward R. Cosimano	Art Unit 3629	MW

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

(1) Edward R. Cosimano. (3) _____.

(2) Representative Khorsandi. (4) _____.

Date of Interview: 07 April 2003.

Type: a) Telephonic b) Video Conference
c) Personal [copy given to: 1) applicant 2) applicant's representative]

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: d) Yes e) No.
If Yes, brief description: _____.

Claim(s) discussed: 1-30.

Identification of prior art discussed: art of record.

Agreement with respect to the claims f) was reached. g) was not reached. h) N/A.

Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: see attached.

(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable, if available, must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments that would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

THE FORMAL WRITTEN REPLY TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN ONE MONTH FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE, OR THE MAILING DATE OF THIS INTERVIEW SUMMARY FORM, WHICHEVER IS LATER, TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. See Summary of Record of Interview requirements on reverse side or on attached sheet.

Examiner Note: You must sign this form unless it is an
Attachment to a signed Office action.

Examiner's signature, if required

Summary of Record of Interview Requirements

Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP), Section 713.04, Substance of Interview Must be Made of Record

A complete written statement as to the substance of any face-to-face, video conference, or telephone interview with regard to an application must be made of record in the application whether or not an agreement with the examiner was reached at the interview.

Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 1.133 Interviews

Paragraph (b)

In every instance where reconsideration is requested in view of an interview with an examiner, a complete written statement of the reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action must be filed by the applicant. An interview does not remove the necessity for reply to Office action as specified in §§ 1.111, 1.135. (35 U.S.C. 132)

37 CFR §1.2 Business to be transacted in writing.

All business with the Patent or Trademark Office should be transacted in writing. The personal attendance of applicants or their attorneys or agents at the Patent and Trademark Office is unnecessary. The action of the Patent and Trademark Office will be based exclusively on the written record in the Office. No attention will be paid to any alleged oral promise, stipulation, or understanding in relation to which there is disagreement or doubt.

The action of the Patent and Trademark Office cannot be based exclusively on the written record in the Office if that record is itself incomplete through the failure to record the substance of interviews.

It is the responsibility of the applicant or the attorney or agent to make the substance of an interview of record in the application file, unless the examiner indicates he or she will do so. It is the examiner's responsibility to see that such a record is made and to correct material inaccuracies which bear directly on the question of patentability.

Examiners must complete an Interview Summary Form for each interview held where a matter of substance has been discussed during the interview by checking the appropriate boxes and filling in the blanks. Discussions regarding only procedural matters, directed solely to restriction requirements for which interview recordation is otherwise provided for in Section 812.01 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, or pointing out typographical errors or unreadable script in Office actions or the like, are excluded from the interview recordation procedures below. Where the substance of an interview is completely recorded in an Examiners Amendment, no separate Interview Summary Record is required.

The Interview Summary Form shall be given an appropriate Paper No., placed in the right hand portion of the file, and listed on the "Contents" section of the file wrapper. In a personal interview, a duplicate of the Form is given to the applicant (or attorney or agent) at the conclusion of the interview. In the case of a telephone or video-conference interview, the copy is mailed to the applicant's correspondence address either with or prior to the next official communication. If additional correspondence from the examiner is not likely before an allowance or if other circumstances dictate, the Form should be mailed promptly after the interview rather than with the next official communication.

The Form provides for recordation of the following information:

- Application Number (Series Code and Serial Number)
- Name of applicant
- Name of examiner
- Date of interview
- Type of interview (telephonic, video-conference, or personal)
- Name of participant(s) (applicant, attorney or agent, examiner, other PTO personnel, etc.)
- An indication whether or not an exhibit was shown or a demonstration conducted
- An identification of the specific prior art discussed
- An indication whether an agreement was reached and if so, a description of the general nature of the agreement (may be by attachment of a copy of amendments or claims agreed as being allowable). Note: Agreement as to allowability is tentative and does not restrict further action by the examiner to the contrary.
- The signature of the examiner who conducted the interview (if Form is not an attachment to a signed Office action)

It is desirable that the examiner orally remind the applicant of his or her obligation to record the substance of the interview of each case. It should be noted, however, that the Interview Summary Form will not normally be considered a complete and proper recordation of the interview unless it includes, or is supplemented by the applicant or the examiner to include, all of the applicable items required below concerning the substance of the interview.

A complete and proper recordation of the substance of any interview should include at least the following applicable items:

- 1) A brief description of the nature of any exhibit shown or any demonstration conducted,
- 2) an identification of the claims discussed,
- 3) an identification of the specific prior art discussed,
- 4) an identification of the principal proposed amendments of a substantive nature discussed, unless these are already described on the Interview Summary Form completed by the Examiner,
- 5) a brief identification of the general thrust of the principal arguments presented to the examiner,
(The identification of arguments need not be lengthy or elaborate. A verbatim or highly detailed description of the arguments is not required. The identification of the arguments is sufficient if the general nature or thrust of the principal arguments made to the examiner can be understood in the context of the application file. Of course, the applicant may desire to emphasize and fully describe those arguments which he or she feels were or might be persuasive to the examiner.)
- 6) a general indication of any other pertinent matters discussed, and
- 7) if appropriate, the general results or outcome of the interview unless already described in the Interview Summary Form completed by the examiner.

Examiners are expected to carefully review the applicant's record of the substance of an interview. If the record is not complete and accurate, the examiner will give the applicant an extendable one month time period to correct the record.

Examiner to Check for Accuracy

If the claims are allowable for other reasons of record, the examiner should send a letter setting forth the examiner's version of the statement attributed to him or her. If the record is complete and accurate, the examiner should place the indication, "Interview Record OK" on the paper recording the substance of the interview along with the date and the examiner's initials.

1. Applicant should note the changes to patent practice and procedure:
 - A) effective December 01, 1997 as published in the Federal Register, Vol 62, No. 197, Friday October 10, 1997;
 - B) effective November 07, 2000 as published in the Federal Register, Vol 65, No. 54603, September 08, 2000; and
 - C) Amendment in revised format, Vol. 1267 of the Official Gazette published February 25, 2003.

SUBSTANCE OF INTERVIEW

2. In regard to sections (4)(A)(1) through (4)(A)(9) and (5)(B)(1) through (5)(B)(8) of the Office action mailed October 21, 2003, it was proposed to amend the drawings and specification to use capital letters when designating the respective figures, for example "FIG. 10a" would be designated as -FIG. 10A--.

2.1 In regard to sections (4)(A)(10) and (5)(A)(1)(a) through (5)(A)(1)(af) of the Office action mailed October 21, 2003, it was proposed to amend the drawings and specification to either delete the reference from the drawings, add the reference numbers to the specification or to indicate where the reference numbers have been disclosed.

2.2 In regard to sections (7.1) and (7.2) of the Office action mailed October 21, 2003, it was proposed to amend the rejected claims to correct the dependency of claims 8 & 19.

2.3 In regard to section (8) of the Office action mailed October 21, 2003, it was proposed to file a single terminal disclaimer that mentions each copending applicant and has been signed by both of the assignees.

2.4 Due to previous time constraints on the participants, the interview was continued on April 08, 2004 to discuss section (9) of the Office action mailed October 21, 2003.

2.5 In regard to section (2) of the Office action mailed October 21, 2003 and the use of various Trademarks, these marks will be capitalized or that the trademark appears as it is has been trademarked by the holder and is consistent with the proprietary nature of the trademark.

2.6 In regard to sections (9.2) and (9.3.1) through (9.3.3) of the Office action mailed October 21, 2003, applicant intends to submit an affidavit swearing behind the Tempe (InterShipper™) article and Barton (2002/0022983).

2.7 In regard to sections (9.1) and (9.3.1) through (9.3.3) of the Office action mailed October 21, 2003, applicant intends to amend the claims to more particularly point out the structure and operation of the claimed invention to distinguish the claimed invention over the applied prior art.

2.8 It was noted that as the claims now appear, it appears that the recited operations and structure do not occur outside of a computer and hence may be considered as abstract and therefore non-statutory. However, the proposed amendment of adding a plurality of client users remotely accessing a central server to obtain shipping services and rating information would remove this rejection.

2.9 In regard to (A) sections (4)(A)(11) & (4)(A)(12); (B) sections (5)(A)(2)(a) through (5)(A)(2)(g); and (C) sections (5)(B)(9) through (5)(B)(14); of the Office action mailed October 21, 2003, these objections will be appropriately addressed by making appropriate amendments.

2.10 The above proposed amendments would be submitted as a substitute specification in conformance with 37 CFR § 1.121 and 37 CFR § 1.125.

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Edward Cosimano whose telephone number is (703) 305-9783. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Thursday from 7:30am to 6:00pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Weiss, can be reached on (703)-308-2702. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.

- 3.1 The fax phone number for UNOFFICIAL/DRAFT FAXES is (703) 746-7240.
- 3.2 The fax phone number for OFFICIAL FAXES is (703) 872-9306.
- 3.3 The fax phone number for AFTER FINAL FAXES is (703) 872-9306.

04/08/04


Edward R. Cosimano
Primary Examiner A.U. 3629